(c) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) The Surplus power used to be available on a sustained basis in the Eastern Region (ER). During the current year, (April, 2007 to January, 2008) the energy and peak shortage in the Eastern Region has been of the order of 4.6% and 6% respectively. As compared to the Eastern Region the energy and peak shortage in the country as a whole is of the order of 9% and 15.2% respectively. The main reasons for shortage of power in the Eastern Region are inadequate capacity addition within the Region vis-a-vis the growth in demand, poor performance of generating units in some of the States and reduced availability of power during the winter months due to reduction to water inflows into Tala Hydro Power Stations.

After meeting held in the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) with the constituent States/Utilities of the Eastern Region at New Delhi on 30th January, 2008, the CEA has forwarded detailed recommendations to the Ministry of Power, which are given below:

(i) 153 MW of Tala unallocated power may be continued to Northern Region.

(ii) Restoration of 343 MW from Farakka and Kahalgaon Stage-I to Eastern Region Constituents by equivalent diversion (of 343 MW) from Kahalgaon State-II be done in phases as and when Kahalgaon-II units 5,6 and 7 become operational.

(iii) 150 MW from Kejia Unit 5 may be supplied by DVC to command area/Jharkhand/ West Bengal immediately on commissioning of the Unit.

(iv) 150 MW from Mejia Unit 6 after commissioning of the Unit may be swapped with Kahalgaon State-I and Farakka Power.

Power Sharing Agreement

1027. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement was signed between the Union Government and the State Governments of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan regarding sharing of power generated in hydel power projects of Punjab;

(b) if so, whether the share of Rajasthan has been finalized in respect of projects covered under the agreement;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Union Government proposes to refer the claims of Rajasthan for power sharing in hydel project of Punjab to the Supreme Court; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken to expedite the finalization of Rajasthan's share in the projects mentioned in the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (e) An agreement was reached between the States of Punjab, Haryana & Rajasthan and Government of India on 10.05.1984 wherein it was agreed that in view of the claims raised by Haryana & Rajasthan for sharing of power in Anandpur Sahib Hydel Project, Mukerian Hydel Project, Thein Dam project, UBDC State-II and Shahpur Kandi hydel Scheme, the Government of India shall refer

the matter to the Hon'ble Supreme Court for its opinion. The opinion of the Hon'ble Supreme Court was to be sought on whether the States of Rajasthan & Haryana are entitled to a share in the power generated from these hydel schemes and in case they are, what would be the share of each State.

However, subsequently in the discussions held between the Chief Ministers of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan on 29-30 July, 1992 and 6th August, 1992, a consensus was reached not to refer the matter to the Hon'ble Supreme Court. It was also decided that the States would come to a reasonable agreement through mutual consultations. In order to resolve the issue amicably, a number of formal and informal discussions have taken place. However, no consensus has emerged so far due to the divergent views of the stakeholder States. Meanwhile, the State of Punjab has enacted the 'Punjab Termination of Agreements Act 2004', terminating and discharging the Government of Punjab from its obligations under the agreement between Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan dated 31.12.1981 on reallocation of waters and under all other agreements relating to waters of Ravi-Beas. Government of India has made a Presidential Reference to the Supreme Court inter alia whether the Punjab Termination of Agreements Act, 2004 and the provisions thereof are in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of India.

National electricity fund

1028. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating to create a National Electricity Fund to support the State Electricity Boards;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the fund is likely to be made available to the SEBs;

(c) whether Government intends to initiate some other steps to strengthen the cash-strapped SEBs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission has intimated that the Eleventh Plan document, approved by the National Development Council, has *inter-alia* recommended the setting up of a National Electricity Fund for supportive measures to bring about major improvement in the distribution system. It has been decided that Planning Commission will explore the option of establishing a National Electricity Fund to provide soft loans to States to improve their disribution infrastructure.

(c) and (d) It is proposed to introduce a restructured Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) in the 11th Plan with a focus on establishing base line data in respect of Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses, sanctioning projects for improvement of distribution network and incentivising utilities which achieve AT&C loss reduction.

Power cuts

1029. SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ:
SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of power cuts in various States in urban and rural areas separately, during October-December, 2007; and